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17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

Accomplishments in the welfare of agricultural seasonal workers are reported. Particular attention is paid to such services for migrant children as day care centers. Such centers are provided from private funds, are usually church sponsored, and are largely staffed by volunteers. State operated centers are recommended.

Colorado was one of the first states to set up summer schools for the seasonal workers. From one summer school in 1955, seven special term projects were operating in 1960 under funds provided by the State. A Migrant Educational Research Program and inservice education for teachers of migrant children are additional activities of the Colorado program. California sparingly uses public funds for the workers. Churches and volunteer programs usually provide educational services.

Progress is being made in extending health services to migrant laborers in both Colorado and California. Growing cooperation of civic leaders, state officials, and growers is resulting in achievement in health and public welfare. Citizens' committees are actively supporting and initiating programs. Self-help by the migrants is emphasized. An example of a successful self-help housing program in Puerto Rico is given as one upon which to base experience.

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Friendly Persuasion to Summer School

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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AGRICULTURAL SEASONAL LABORERS

OF

COLORADO AND CALIFORNIA

by

CYRUS H. KARRAKER, PRESIDENT
Pennsylvania Citizens Committee on Migrant Labor
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

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Agricultural Seasonal Laborers of Colorado and California

This report results from a grant received of Bucknell University for research on migrant conditions in Colorado and California. In these states I conferred with government officials, and with well-informed private citizens, who gave most generously of their time for visits to day care centers, summer schools, a health clinic, and to labor camps. In addition to this information gathered first-hand, I read a considerable number of illuminating reports on the life of the agricultural seasonal laborers in these states, and on the progress that is being made for their welfare. The general picture I received is indeed a forbidding one, but I feel greatly heartened by the certainty of growing public concern, and of considerable improvement being made under the direction of able and determined leaders.

The welfare of migrant farm children has long been my compelling interest, and this for reason of strategy as well as sentiment. By "strategy" I mean a belief that the neglect of these children provides the opening door to migrant reform. When once we revealed the condition of these helpless little ones, the American people, I thought, would be so shocked by the tragic facts they would demand the passage of legislation for their welfare. This they would do with all the crusading zeal of an earlier generation in behalf of its neglected factory children. Then, inevitably, would follow other beneficial reforms. However, within the year I have abandoned this assumption as quite unwarranted

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by the facts. Certainly, the White House Conference on Children and Youth revealed the existence of a vast amount of public indifference in rural America toward the welfare of dependent children. Even more alarming to some of us who participated came the bitter truth that in many states large numbers of migrant children virtually are being abandoned to a life of migrancy--an existence of ignorance, sickness, and despair.

Further evidence of public indifference may be seen in the prevalence of child labor persisting on the commercial-type farms. At the end of 1960, following years of struggle in many state legislatures for the passage of laws outlawing child labor in agriculture, only eight states had enacted such laws. In 25 states having migrant families it is today common practice for children as young as eight years to be employed in the fields and orchards like adult hired hands, and this practice many agriculturists continue to defend as character-building.

I now believe that all migrant problems, those of wages, hours, and conditions of labor, housing, education, health, child care, and the rest, because they are closely related, should be attacked simultaneously with all the energy and resources of citizens' committees, aided by the state and federal government. At the same time, the welfare of children undoubtedly makes the most moving appeal to many persons who insist on the right of every child to play, to be educated, to have good health, to be loved, and to have a happy family life. This heritage is from God and it must not be denied to any child.

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Day Care Centers.

In Colorado and California I found day care services being provided from private funds, either under the supervision of the Catholic Church or that of the Migrant Ministry of the Council of Churches. A large amount of assistance is also contributed by local denominations and civic groups. The children receive day care, basic education, health services and Bible instruction, with much of the emphasis being placed on their social adjustment. Dedicated persons devote much time and energy to this self-sacrificing work, but volunteer day care centers can reach only a very small percentage of the children who live in hundreds of small camps scattered over immense areas as well as in large ones, amounting to a total of more than 6,000 in California. The needs of some 25,000 pre-school age children in these two states can be met, with any degree of satisfaction, only by the use of federal funds available to the states for their dependent children--the allotments that annually are made to the states under Child Welfare Services. Migrant children, as well as resident dependent children, are entitled to the benefit of these funds. There is no class of dependent children whose needs are so urgent.

The use of federal funds for this purpose in Colorado and California would result in the setting up of a chain of day care centers that would provide the essential services for a much larger number of children. When operated under state standards and supervision, these centers would possess the advantages of having trained personnel and

the assurance of stability and permanence which are not the notable characteristics of volunteer day care centers. Financed from federal funds, centers were operated this summer at five places in Ohio and at eight in Pennsylvania with outstanding success. This was the eighth year of their operation with the use of public funds in Pennsylvania.

In Colorado and California numerous citizens' groups are actively engaged in the welfare of migrant children. What appears to be needed at this moment is the leadership of a state-wide citizens committee making government-supported child care centers its most urgent concern. Funds are appropriated in Senate Bill 1131 for day care facilities, but even if this bill fails of passage, still all will not be lost. The federal funds annually received from the U. S. Childrens' Bureau will still be available for use.

Summer Schools

The special educational needs of the children of agricultural seasonal laborers have long been recognized, but it is only in recent years that any state has provided summer schools for them. Colorado was among the first to set up summer schools, and this state is conducting a model program of education.

The program was inaugurated at Wiggins in 1955 as a pilot project. By 1960 the first school had expanded to seven special term schools located at Wiggins, Palisade, Fort Lupton, Rocky Ford, Monte

Vista, and two in the San Luis Valley. These schools operate under the high standards of the regular schools from which they draw their experienced teachers. The necessary funds are provided by the State, with the requirement that the school district make available for the instruction of the children its school building with all its equipment and facilities. The schools, with one exception, close at 2:30 in the afternoon, the morning hours being devoted chiefly to instruction in basic elementary subjects, and the session after luncheon to social studies, art, handcraft projects and recreation. The essential health services are provided. Attendance is voluntary.

The children who come to the special term schools are of three different cultures--the Anglos; those who are strongly influenced by Spanish-American culture; and a third group who are largely lacking in culture and social adjustment.[1] Consequently, the teacher is confronted with linguistic and cultural difficulties far greater, for example, than are known to the teachers of Negro children in the summer schools set up for migrant children in the Atlantic Coastal states.

The number of children of ages 6-16 years, based on statistics of the 1958 and 1959 seasons, was estimated at 3,810. They were located in 16 migratory labor areas, and in at least 12 need exists for summer school facilities. Education was found feasible for possibly

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[1] Alfred M. Potts 2d, Colorado Department of Education, "School Bells for Children Who Follow the Crops," Elementary School Journal, May, 1960.

2,200 of these, or more than 50 per cent.[2]

The special term schools form only a part of Colorado's program. Of much importance to its continuing success is the Migrant Educational Research Program which was extended for three years, from January, 1958, through December, 1960. This was administered by the Colorado State Department of Education in cooperation with the Cooperative Research Program of the U. S. Office of Education. Its work has been highly successful not only because it uncovered the facts, but was also the instrument chiefly responsible for the development, acceptance and implementation of the new year-around migrant program.

The new program is financed entirely by the State. One significant area of research is the in-service education for teachers of migrant children, which was first conducted at Adams State College in 1957. A five-weeks' workshop was held here in 1960 with the purpose of "aiding teachers in developing a more complete understanding of the migrant child and methods in the classroom." The problem of "attitude and value formation in the migrant child" was also considered. Other in-service workshops are scheduled for each year through 1963.[3]

Since 1955, when the first pilot summer school was set up at Wiggins, probably the greatest encouragement to the summer school

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[2] Alfred M. Potts 2d, and Helen Marie Redbird, "Providing Education for Migrant Children," p. 48. Colorado State Department of Education, Denver, 1961.

[3] Idem., p. 67.

program came this year with the passage by the Colorado General Assembly of the Migrant Children Education Act. This law makes available a large amount of state funds to assist local school districts in educating migrant children. It does two things: it authorizes the State Board of Education to share the costs incurred by school districts for the education of migrant children during the regular school year, and it reimburses them for the entire cost of a special summer term. For the first year's operation the appropriation is $25,000 for support of the regular schools and $58,000 for the special term schools. An additional appropriation, one quite significant, is the sum of $16,000 for the all-important state administration and supervision of the migrant educati[illegible] effort. The new law is based upon the findings of three years research, under the title, "Providing Education for Migrant Children," plus the experience gained from the operation of summer schools the past six years.[4]

In California public funds either are lacking or they are being used sparingly for the education of migrant children. Dependence is placed on volunteers, but religious and welfare organizations while doing splendid work can reach only a very small per cent of the many thousands who need assistance. At least one important success has been achieved in Santa Clara county. Here the Migrant Ministry of the Council of

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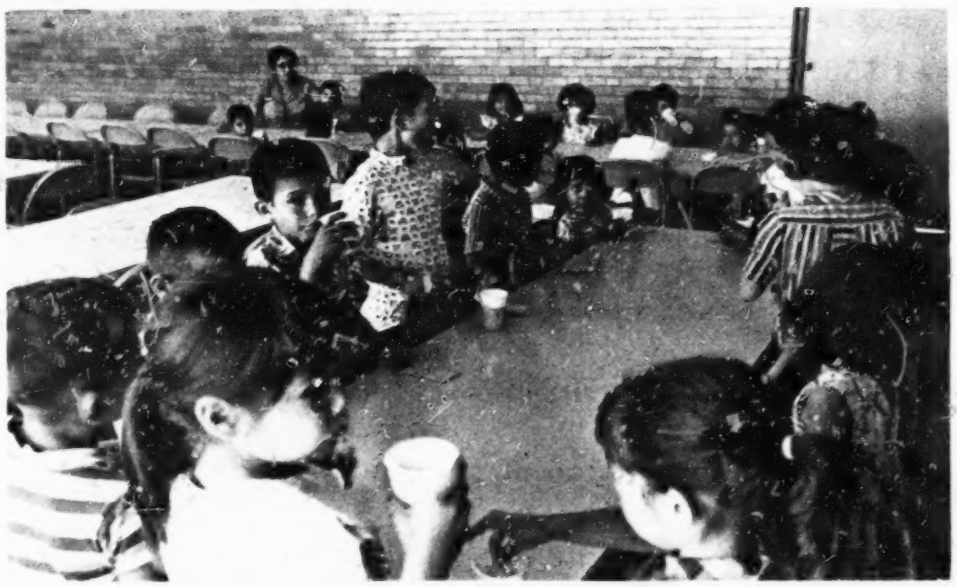
[4]"The Colorado Program for the Education of Migrant Children," State Department of Education. Denver, June 14, 1961. Introduction.

Migrant Children

in Colorado

Summer Schools

"Train up a child in the way he should go..."

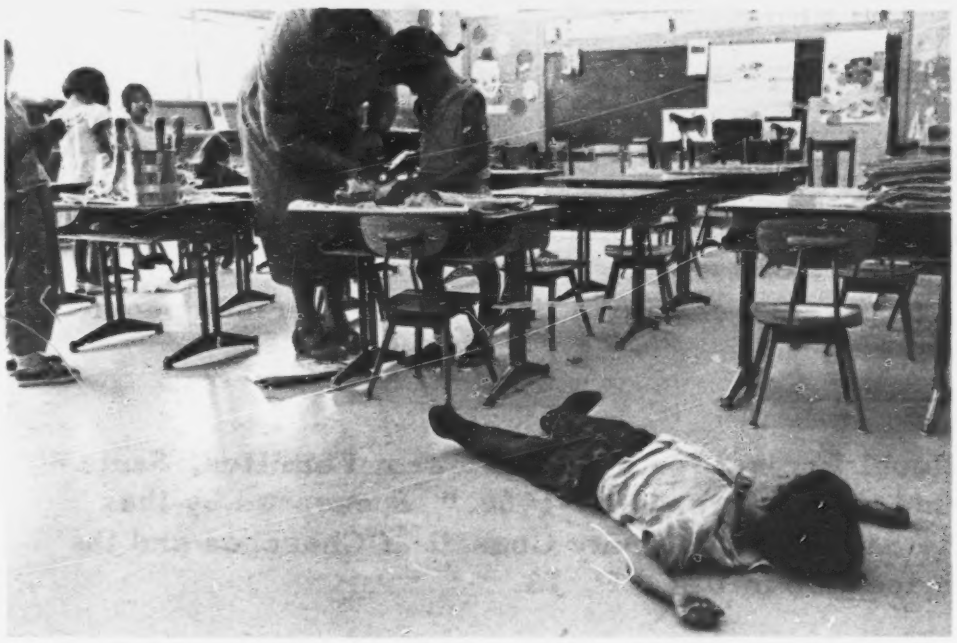


Best time of the day!

Pointing the way to new horizons.

"A teacher affects eternity. . ."

'Round and 'round we go



Nobody for rest but me.

Photographs by
Myron Wood.

Loaned by courtesy
of Colorado State
Department of
Education.

Churches, with the cooperation of the American Friends Service Committee, has conducted for the past five years seven "make-up schools" providing educational services for over 400 children of seasonal farm workers. These schools are conducted for a period of 5-7 weeks during July and August and 2-3 hours daily for five days of the week. They serve the dual purpose of providing aid to children who are retarded in education, and encouragement to parents to keep their children in school where they may be prepared for better job opportunities.

Other parts of the educational program are literacy classes for adult seasonal workers, homemaking projects, and, probably, the most welcome of all services--mobile libraries. In the conclusion of her report, Mrs. Robert Y. Goble, Coordinator, states that "Federal appropriations matched by state funds are indicated if any nation-wide program for advancement in education for migrant families is to be successfully realized."[5]

Regulation of Agricultural Seasonal Labor

One of the phenomena of post-war years is the revolutionary changeover in agriculture from the small family farms to the large commercial-type farms. A related phenomenon, it would seem, is the never-ending idealizing of present-day farm life by the American people

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[5] "Report on the Educational Project for Seasonal Farm Families, Santa Clara County, California, Six Years, 1955-1960." Sponsored by the Migrant Ministry of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches and the American Friends Service Committee. P. 13.

in nineteenth-century terms of the "simple life," "honest work," and "character-building." The Currier and Ives days on the farm have disappeared from the American scene almost everywhere, but to some it amounts to disloyalty even to mention the fact.

Since World War II large vegetable and fruit farms and ranches have mushroomed into growth over the nation, which are quite appropriately called "factory farms" because of their size, mass use of labor, and large quantity production. An additional characteristic of the factory farm, so typical of the industrial factory at the turn of the century, are its attendant evils of slum housing, the sweating of labor, child labor and neglect, and health deterioration. In California all these problems are made more difficult of solution by the employment of thousands of families whose cultures are alien to the communities.

The Spanish-speaking peoples comprise the largest number of the agricultural laborers, but Negroes and Indians form sizable minorities. Another group are the native Anglo-Americans, many of whom are forced to migrate to other states in search of work because of the importation each year under federal law of Mexican laborers. The competition of cheap labor from more than 300,000 "braceros" is a major cause of the economic distress suffered by American agricultural workers in California and the Southwest.

The peak population of all agricultural seasonal laborers in California in 1960 is estimated by the U. S. Government at approximately 125,000. The figure for children under 14 years of age is not estimated

but may have reached 35,000. An added note is the fact that many of the migrant workers in California are not actually migrants, as are the Negro farm laborers who each spring move up the Atlantic Seaboard harvesting the crops from state to state, but in many places are residents of communities.

What progress is being made toward the improvement of labor conditions? The most significant achievement undoubtedly was the adoption this year of two Wage Orders by the Industrial Welfare Commission of California. These went into effect on August 28th. Orders 13-61 and 14-61 represent the culmination of five years of effort by the Commission to draft Orders relating to women and minors employed in agriculture. Order 14-61 is most important because it sets up for the first time in the history of California minimal standards for women and minors in agricultural labor.

The Orders were arrived at in a thoroughly democratic procedure. A rising tide of complaints over the years on low wages, long hours, and unhealthy working conditions of women and minors at length convinced the members of the Industrial Welfare Commission of the need for investigation, and they visited seven areas where they held hearings. At the hearings testimony was presented for the growers by individual growers and representatives of farm organizations, and, in behalf of the laborers, by representatives of welfare and religious groups, labor organizations, and citizens committees, by university students, and by a few laborers themselves. After 18 months of hear-

ings the five Commissioners, finding that the testimony presented warranted action, appointed by authority of the California Labor Code an Agricultural Wage Board to consider the wages, hours and working conditions of women and minors. It was composed of an equal number of employers and employees.

The Wage Board held seven hearings during 1960 and from the evidence presented drew up its recommendations to the Commission. On these the Commission held further hearings in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and on April 28, 1961, adopted the Wage Orders. The most important provisions of Wage Order 14-61 follow:

1. The establishment of a minimum wage of $1.00 per hour for women and minors (16 years of age and over), who are paid on an hourly basis.

2. A minimum "reporting" or call pay of $4.00 each day for piece workers. This provision was adopted to eliminate the problem of piece workers being called to work when crop or weather conditions will not permit the earning of a minimal amount.

3. Each employer is required to keep personnel and payroll records.

4. Each place of employment is required to furnish potable drinking water.

5. Each place of employment is required to be supplied with sanitary toilet and washing facilities convenient to the employees.

6. Definite limitations are placed on the weights of objects to be carried or lifted.

7. Inspection of establishments by representatives of the Commission for the purpose of investigating data kept on wages, hours and working conditions, the inspection of records, and the questioning of employees.

8. A penalty of fine, imprisonment, or both, for non-compliance with any provision of the Order.

No regulation was adopted on maximum hours or over-time, nor on piece rates other than the protection of this type of worker under "reporting pay."

At the hearings many growers declared that their business could not bear the minimum wage proposed of $1.25 or even of $1.00 per hour. If adopted, they would be forced to dismiss many of their workers. A fruit grower testified that he employed during the peach and apricot season 70 or 80 people, and of these "five percent of the picking crew would be adults and the rest would be women accompanied by their children. And this is all piece work. It is all piece work but the wage is set usually by the neighbors around--they also have apricots so we join together and set up a rate line. And good pickers will get over $1.00 an hour. If they pick three boxes an hour, they'll pick 35-40 boxes a day in an 8-hour day. Of course when you get the women and children in there, minors, they all come and they all want a job. . . . . So we put them to work at the same rate, and of course you know what children are, they play around and you can't make them work. You can't force a child to work like that because they get tired."

In reference to the proposed minimum wage, he declared: "If I

had to pay a regular wage an hour like that, I would simply have to quit hiring all this minor help, and they would all be running loose around the country there getting into mischief while we are at the peak season. . . I just wanted to stress the fact that all these children would be running around loose and getting into mischief when they could be gainfully employed. I seldom take minors below 10 years of age. They gradually work up to it and when they get up to about 15 years old, why they begin to be experts."

Another fruit grower thus represented the necessity for the employment of children: "In one of my families who work on my ranch today there are eight children. These are boys and girls from about 6 to 12 years old . . . The children pick in pails and small boxes . . . If this man could not allow his family to work to pick prunes, with 8 children, you can visualize how he can make a living under modern times."

Other growers presented statistics describing the high wages and good working conditions then being enjoyed by the laborers on their ranches, and there were some who hailed the existing unregulated labor in the fields and orchards as an education in honest work for young people, as once it had been for them. They knew of no better safeguard against juvenile delinquency.

The testimony presented on behalf of the agricultural laborers stressed their right to health and well-being which the industrial workers enjoyed. They, too, required the protection of a minimum wage, standard hours and conditions of work, protection against unemployment,

and old age benefits. A representative of the Migrant Ministry forcefully asserted that "legislative standards are based not on what a particular industry can afford to pay, or desires to pay, nor on what its workers will accept, but on what has been determined to be a minimal standard of remuneration and of work hours and conditions consistent with the needs of any human being for health and wellbeing." The growers, she contended, had made no argument that "existing legislation regarding wages, hours and working conditions provide too high a standard for health and welfare, rather only the suggestion that legislation at all is inappropriate to agriculture. This is to suggest that agricultural workers may not need the same health and well-being as other workers, or that wages, hours and working conditions may not have bearing on their health and well-being. Such suggestion is so obviously false that it needs no further comment."

A representative of the Catholic Rural Life Conference affirmed that "when large scale industrialized farming requires a season of year around labor, justice demands for such a labor group a living family wage, decent housing conditions and collective bargaining. Where migrant farm labor persists, full need for protection should be extended as regards conditions of work, minimum wages, standards of labor for women and children, and guarantee of the right to organize into bargaining segments. Migrant workers should have the same protection against insecurity of employment and old age as industrialized workers. They must come

under Fair Labor Standards, Social Security, and Unemployment Compensation."

The neglect of the children of the laborers, the fact of little children being taken into the heat and dust of the fields and orchards, or of being left at camp without proper care, is pictured all too vividly by the few laborers who testified. Two of their accounts follow--the first by a woman laborer who was brought to the hearings by a priest. Her interrogation follows:

Q. "And do you object to taking the children in the field with you rather than leaving the younger ones home with somebody else?

A. "I always do. (She has 11 children.) I always leave one of them to stay with them.

Q. "That's the little ones?

A. "Yes. The very little ones. I always leave some one to take care of them.

Q. "How old do you generally consider a child must be before you take them into the fields with you?

A. "Well, I have --- 'Cause we never did believe that the girls should be in the fields, but there has to come a time for everybody. So then we had a little boy, he was about, uh, he was about a year old. We didn't take him to the fields, but we had him in the camp which is worse enough, in that kind of heat and the mosquitoes. It is not the same as when you are in your own home. And then that next year he was about two years, and that is when we took him into the fields.

Q. "How old were they when they started to work?

A. "I never did put my children to work very little. The littlest one was seven. She did whatever she could. You know, no rush."

A girl aged 17 years and in Senior High School testified:

"I have two brothers and two sisters. I started working when I was 10. I always go to school except weekends or in the summer. I have worked in prunes, cotton, string beans, onions, strawberries, apricots, tomatoes, cherries and potatoes. I have worked in Colusa, Amador, Sloughouse, Imperial Valley, Lodi, Stockton, Bacon Island, Coalinga and Fairoaks. I have studied in school - history, typing, Spanish, student service."

Q. "When you think about that, what particularly bothers you? What don't you like to think about?"

A. "Oh, the mosquitoes and the rest rooms, and you walk and they're not very nice and there's only a shower. And sometimes you have to wait hours to take a shower. Sometimes there isn't even hot water. And when you go to the girls' rest room, we have to walk all over the camp. And it is very hot, and you can't work too much in the summertime."

Another laborer testified that she picked peaches, averaging $10.00 a day. She had to take her children into the fields "as I can't afford baby sitters for them, as I would have to pay about $2.00 a day for each one, and I have four children. And I have no facilities in the fields where I have worked. No place to wash your hands, toilets or anything. And I have used faulty ladders."

How significant is the Wage Order? Its guaranteed minimum wage will increase and stabilize the income of the agricultural seasonal laborers. With further refinements it will produce higher standards of living for them, with a measure of the respectability that is enjoyed by industrial laborers. The entire agricultural industry will benefit from becoming more stable, more responsible, and more efficient.

The Wage Order has breached the walls of agriculture's citadel since it opens the door to other reforms. Children and youth, who are retarded in education because their wages were needed to supplement the family income, will be educated in special schools. Another problem of vast proportions to be brought under attack is unsanitary housing. The grower is offered assistance for improving the housing of his laborers through the new Federal Omnibus Housing Bill; the local citizens' committee should encourage him to avail himself of its loans. The benefits of unemployment and health insurance are also a necessity, in addition to workmen's compensation which agricultural laborers already possess.

Health

Health care for the million or more migrant laborers over the United States has improved extraordinarily little during the past 20 years. A number of surveys reveal this fact, one of the most important of these being the California Report of 1960. Reports, news stories and articles, together with notable films, have warned our people of the menace to the health of migrants from unsanitary housing and working conditions, child labor, and accidents to children from operating agricultural machinery, but these warnings have been little heeded. The health services for migrant farm laborers over the nation are described as late as 1961 as "usually sporadic, unplanned and unorganized within as well as between communities."[6]

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[6] James K. Shafer, Donald Harting, and Helen L. Johnston, "Health Needs of Seasonal Farm Workers and their Families," U. S. Public Health Report of June, 1961, pp. 469-74.

Such is the grim national picture. It is bad, but encouraging progress is being made in extending health services to migrant laborers both in Colorado and California. This will rapidly accelerate, provided Senate Bill 1130 is passed authorizing grants for improving health services to migratory farm workers. Similar beneficial results from the enactment of other pending federal legislation may with equal confidence be predicted for day care and education.

In Colorado, Public Health has accomplished much in providing health services to migrant families in Mesa and in other counties. Most of the success is being achieved at the large camps, great difficulty being found in reaching the small groups of migrants scattered over the farm areas of the State. A good picture of the progress being made is seen in the film prepared by the Health Department, entitled "Colorado Cares" (1958), which portrays community action to provide schooling, health education, and social activities for migrant families.

While the health problems of agricultural seasonal laborers in Colorado are extensive, much greater are those of California because of its much greater population. When viewed in its entirety, few states have a worse housing situation, and yet this non-medical observer sees California showing the way to all others in developing programs for migrant health. Here one is bound to be impressed by the growing co-operation of civic leaders, state officials, and of an increasing number of growers in this cause of common concern.

The best illustration, perhaps, of the blessings of co-operation is

seen in the Fresno County Rural Health and Education Committee. This organization was formed nine years ago in response to the public's shock over the deaths of 28 infants from dysentery. It is composed of growers, doctors, lawyers, ministers of the three faiths, and also of representatives of public health committees formed in the labor camps. It is difficult to recall a committee that is more democratically organized.

For more effective action the Committee selected a planning and advisory group, known as "The Inter-Agency Committee," whose task is to bring proposals before the main body. The goal is the improvement of living conditions and the health and education of the seasonal farm workers. The Committee's outstanding achievement has been the setting up of five West Side Clinics for the migratory families, one of which, "Calflax," I had the privilege of visiting by courtesy of its chief promoter, Mrs. I. H. Teilman. At the clinics, each of the five being held one evening of the week, the entire family is cared for by a team of professional persons, including a physician, a public nurse, a nutritionist, and a home demonstration teacher. Often a student volunteer from the Migrant Ministry is present to assist. A great help to the success of the health clinics has been the support of Mr. T. L. O'Neill, a large grower and public-spirited citizen of Fresno county.

These clinics were originally financed through the aid of the Rosenberg Foundation, but at present entirely by the county.[7] Now,

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[7] "A Preliminary Report on a Study of Farm Laborers in Fresno County, Jan. 1, 1959 to July 1, 1959," pp. 73-4, by William C. Beatty, Jr., Patricia Pickford and Thomas M. Brigham, for the Fresno County Rural Health and Education Committee. A Rosenberg Foundation project.

with more state funds available, twelve more counties are planning to set up similar clinics. Six of these are already opened, which means that the much hoped-for decentralization of health services over the state is moving along in a convincing manner.

A second giant step forward in California was the passage recently of legislation appropriating nearly $100,000 for the maintenance of a health program for agricultural seasonal workers. This legislation resulted from a survey report with recommendations which was made to Governor Brown in 1960 by a task force of the Department of Public Health headed by Dr. Bruce Jessup, Consultant in Rural Health. Improvements along the following lines of medical care were listed for California, some of which, no doubt, apply to other states:

1. Availability and Accessibility of Health and Medical Facilities. The success of the decentralized clinics of Fresno County was cited.

2. Early Diagnosis and Treatment. "These people usually obtain medical care only in emergencies."

3. Lack of Coordination of Existing Public Services. "There is a conspicuous absence of consistent, coordinated planning by these public and private agencies for these multi-problem families."

4. Cost of Medical Care. Its high cost is a great hardship on these workers of low income, few of whom carry health insurance.

5. Cultural Factors. Lack of knowledge of health and disease, the barrier of language, and reluctance to ask for medical aid from public sources are some of the cultural factors of these people on which more information is needed.

The interview conducted by the Committee of local citizens indicated their strong opinion that the health program should be "a locally determined program, extending health services to these people, and subsidized by State funds." In its final word the Committee predicted that "by implementing the present recommendations for state financial support of locally administered services, geared to the variety of local situations, California will lead the Nation toward its goal of equal opportunities for good health for these disadvantaged families."[8]

Further advances in migrant health can be confidently predicted when a health survey is taken of all the occupants of a migrant camp. This is being projected. The specific information obtainable from this procedure will provide a state with the basic knowledge necessary for a systematic effort toward improving migrant health.

Citizens' Committees

Much of the hope for improvement in the life of agricultural seasonal laborers rests with the initiative and support of citizens' committees. One of the best examples of effective co-operation of citizens we have already observed is the Fresno County Rural Health and Education Committee and its achievement in setting up health clinics for families of migrant laborers. An even greater performance is possible

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[8] "Health Conditions and Services for Domestic Seasonal Agricultural Workers." Report and Recommendations to Governor Edmund G. Brown from the Department of Public Health, October 1, 1960, p. 48.

HEALTH CLINICS

Courtesy of Public Health Department of Fresno County, California.

Nursing Pre-Conference

Doctor examining Mother.

Doctor Examining Child

Nursing Post-Conference

from a citizens' committee that is state-wide, and the writer returned very much impressed by the purposeful activity of the Colorado Citizens' Committee on Migrant and Child Labor.

This Committee was organized early in 1960 to take action on the problems of migrant laborers. A number of community leaders were enlisted as sponsors, and CCMCL has spent its brief life actively engaged in organizing support for migrant legislation before the state legislature and Congress, as well as in educating the public on the problems of migrant laborers. Much of its strength lies in the good working relations it has established with some 20 religious and civic welfare committees over Colorado. In legislation the Citizens' Committee assisted in the passage of the Education Act for the expansion of the summer school program, and it has strongly supported the 11 migrant bills before Congress, together with the amending of Public Law 78 relating to the importation of the braceros.

State-wide citizens' committees on migrant labor are set up today in only six states, but they are in a position to exercise strong influence for the passage of legislation, as well as for the enforcement of existing laws and regulations governing migrant welfare. They need to exchange information on their activities, and coordinate their efforts in support of national legislation.

In California the greatest usefulness is seen in the Community Service Organization. It functions at county and state levels, and was formed to promote the welfare of the Spanish-speaking peoples of

California. CSO is giving strong support to legislation for the protection of the agricultural seasonal laborers, as it did for the adoption of the Agricultural Wage Orders.

Another type of effective committee, on the government level, is the legislative committee. Its function is the discovery of facts about migrant life on which to base appropriate legislation. Such was the purpose of the hearings held by the U.S. Senate sub-committee headed by Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey, on whose evidence eleven bills were introduced last year in the two Houses. Similarly, the Colorado Assembly set up in 1961 a joint Legislative Council which held hearings over the state on migrant conditions. These hearings are expected to continue until 1963 and become the bases of migrant welfare legislation by the Assembly.

How can the problems of the agricultural laborers be solved basically except through their own self-improvement? This requires guidance from experienced persons, and such service is provided by the American Friends Service Committee Farm Labor Project. The Farm Labor Project has worked with the farm laborers of Tulare County the past five years, laying the major emphasis on community development. The success of its efforts is evidenced by the formation of Community Improvement Associations at Teviston, Goshen and Beacon. Adequate water supplies at reasonable rates, adult education, and recreational facilities are some of the community gains that have resulted. All efforts "are directed toward helping the farm laborer to gain confidence

in himself by becoming a responsible member of an improving community." Now these ideas are catching on. Citizens' groups are active in planning other self-help projects for communities that will include health, education, recreation, and other benefits.

A second project that is basic to democracy, and one that shows great promise for the future, is the Farm Labor Cooperative. This is composed of farm laborers and is under their control. Its purpose is to "obtain year-round employment for its members at the best wages and under the best working conditions possible, and to provide adequate and dependable labor to growers." As growers have their cooperatives so can farm laborers have them, and the one now functioning through contracts signed with growers is proving quite successful in its program of keeping wages up and providing employment the year around.[9]

An additional co-operative venture of the Farm Labor Project, one only recently brought under way, is self-help housing. Adequate housing is necessary for the stabilization of family life, and nowhere is that fact so patent as in the lives of agricultural laborers. This project will be no untried experiment, because the self-help housing program has already attained remarkable success in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Here, the wretched hovels which once dominated the rural landscape in recent years have been supplanted all over the island by well-constructed, attractive homes, with all the work of construction being furnished by the villagers co-operatively.

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[9]Bard McAllister, A. F. S. C. Farm Labor Project, 417 N. Kent Street, Visalia, California.

Puerto Rico's self-help housing program is made possible through the aid of government loans and government supervision. Since the housing difficulties of the agricultural laborers of California are similar, the extension to them of like government aid would seem to be both wise and desirable.

In conclusion, mention needs to be made of a large problem, one which seems so difficult to solve, and yet unnecessarily so - that of the careful planning of welfare programs. States which plan to study their migrant problems with the purpose of developing their own programs, should consult the staff personnel who are operating these programs elsewhere. There seems to be no sound reason at this date for a state to consider a program for migrant welfare in terms of an untried experiment.

This has been a most profitable experience. I hope the information obtained from Colorado and California of their programs for migrant welfare may be of use to leaders in other states.

Acknowledgments

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